unfortunate experience of yours in Vandiperiyar and Peermade that wild elephants should have increased very much in number. For, I understood that, as a general proposition, elephants have been on the decline. Mr. Cox, the Chief Conservator of Madras who had been deputed on special duty in regard to elephants, has reported, I understand, that there has been a great decline in the number of elephants. That is what my Conservator tells me. I understand that Mr. Cox also said that so far as Travancore is concerned, *keddah* operation was unsuitable. In Mysore, *keddah* operations have been successful, because elephants are more or less limited to a particular area. In Travancore and in some other parts of South India they are distributed widely and it is difficult to drive them into *keddahs*. There is only the pit system here. But the Government will look into the question of the desirability of substituting or supplementing the present operation by *keddah* operation also. You will also find that as against 75 pits that were dug up in 1094, 100 pits have been dug this year and the operation will be extended in the years to come.

Mr. Vincent referred to specific instances of damage, which of course is serious. I do not understand why the provisions of Section 46 of the Forest Regulation should not be availed of to their fullest extent. That Section gives the person, whose property or person is in danger by wild elephants, the right of self-defence. No doubt, there is a proviso, as Mr. Cantlay pointed out, to the effect that the right in no case extends to do more harm than is necessary. That is a question of fact. It will be difficult to frame a general rule in regard to a fact. It will depend upon the circumstances of each case. I dare say that in a matter like this a very liberal interpretation will be put upon. If an elephant is so harmful, if a rogue is determined to put down crops and buildings and trees and will not desist from doing that by being first frightened or being hurt, I do not see why your right of self-defence will not extend to killing that elephant.

In regard to co-operation of the Forest department, I quite agree with you that the Forest department should co-operate with you as much as possible. I am sure that the present Conservator will co-operate with you by taking the necessary measures in the matter of destruction of elephants. I think that the proscription of rogue elephants is a move in the right direction. I shall be glad to instruct my Conservator to attend promptly to complaints from you in regard to rogue elephants and investigate them without delay, proscribe them individually stating that they may be destroyed and that rewards will be offered for their destruction. I do not think that Government should be asked to dig trenches or take such protective measures in regard to private estates against the inroads of elephants. Government will be very pleased to co-operate with planters and to do all that can be reasonably done by way of minimising the evil and harm caused by wild elephants.

21. Desirability of modifying the order prohibiting the registry of Cardamom lands in the Cardamom Hills and rendering help to poor Cardamom cultivators by advancing loans on low interest.

Sahib Bahadur S. P. Sultan Ahamed Badrudin Rowther (Member, Devicolam Taluk) said that the policy of the Government in the past had been to encourage cultivation of cardamom by the grant of concessions. Encouraged by that policy, many had invested all their property in cardamom lands. Entry on cardamom lands before final registry was not prohibited by the rules, but in cases of unauthorised occupation the occupant had to pay the full assessment of Rs. 2 per acre from the year of entry. Thousands of acres of land not formally registered were now under cardamom cultivation. He urged the following facts for consideration, and presented, on behalf of the cardamom ryots, a memorial on the subject :—

(*a*) The demand for lands for cardamom cultivation is not on the decrease, even though the cardamom plants have been subject to attacks from an insect pest.

(*b*) Cardamom is grown only in shade and the timber trees on the land are not affected by such cultivation. The trees on such lands yield only soft wood and there are, besides, difficulties in the transport of any useful timber that may be there

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(*c*) The grass lands adjoining forest reserves are unsuited for cardamom cultivation and are being taken up only for tea estates.

(*d*) The cultivation should not be discouraged merely because the ryots belong to British India. Travancoreans are also taking increasing interest in the cultivation.

(*e*) The revenue realised by allowing cardamom cultivation is considerable, while the forest revenue is insignificant.

In conclusion, he prayed that the recent order of Government contained in G. O. No. L. R. 9643/359 of 1909, dated the 22nd October 1920, prohibiting the further extension of cardamom cultivation within the Cardamom Hills Reserve might be cancelled, and, if that could not be done, that lands that had been applied for and already entered upon be exempted from the operation of the G. O.

Dewan's reply.—The question will be looked into again carefully.

(3) Salt.

22. Salt factories in Travancore: defects in the present administration and suggestions for remedying the same.

Mr. S. Subrahmanya Karayalar B. A. (Member, Shencottah Taluk) prefaced his representation with a comparison between the condition and working of the salt factories in the Tinnevelly District with those in Travancore. He said that in Tuticorin, the lowest density of the brine in the several springs was 10° and the highest 17°, whereas in South Travancore, the density ranged between 1° and 10° only, and that in consequence crystals were formed in the Tinnevelly factories even without condensers, while in Travancore condensers were absolutely necessary for preserving the purity of salt. In the Levanjapuram factory in the Tuticorin Circle which might be taken as a typical instance, the salt layer was 1 to 1½ inches thick on an average, while here, the thickness never exceeded more than ½ an inch; again one pan of an area of one cent yielded in Tuticorin 120 maunds of salt per annum on an average without condensers against only 30 maunds per annum in Travancore. Further, in Tinnevelly the hot season ordinarily continued for about 10 months *i. e.*, from January to October, while in Travancore, the season for scraping salt was for 6 months only and was divided into two portions known as the *Tai Pani and Purattasi Pani*, with heavy and frequent rains intervening, with the result that the salt pans were constantly drenched with fresh water and became marshy and unfit for manufacture. Another advantage the Tinnevelly factories had was that they were naturally situated 5 and 6 feet higher than the sea level, which greatly helped to heat the soil sooner and thereby raise the density of the brine. The Travancore factories on the other hand were situated 4 or 5 feet below the sea level and the major portion was formed by reclamations from the Manakudi lake whose water was ordinarily 4 to 5 feet on a higher level than that of the surface level of the factories. The natural lay of the Tuticorin factories was such that sea water could be taken into the ring channel all round the factories so as to prevent the effect of percolation of fresh water, and besides fresh water coming through the rivers and the surplus water of the paddy lands found their way directly into the sea without affecting the factories in any way. Here in Travancore, the fresh water flowing into the lake was at a standstill and could flow into the sea only when the bar was opened, and there was further heavy percolation of fresh water into the factories on account of the extension of the Kodayar channels which very seriously affected the brine in the inner reservoirs. Sometime breaches occurred on account of heavy floods to the great detriment of the licensees.

The Member then observed that until recently there were salt factories in five different centres in South Travancore *viz.*, Tamaracolam, Rajakamangalam, Colachel, Tattaripu Odai and Variyur. Of these the *Tattaripu Odai* all but died in its infancy, as it had to be abandoned as useless owing to the percolation of fresh

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